

M'LAUGHLIN SAID TO HAVE STOPPED THROUGH HIS PROTEGE, COMPTROLLER COLER, THE BRAZEN RAMAPO WATER STEAL.



IN THE NICK OF TIME!

COLER SAYS EXPERTS WILL DIG DOWN DEEP INTO THE SCANDAL.

THE fight is not won, by any means. We have got a big struggle on hand. My engineers have started in the work of investigation, and they will keep steadily at work until the job is completed. We shall call in experts to dig down deep into the matter and get at the facts. In the meantime this office will be kept hard at work getting into shape the statements of the city finances which will be used in preparing the report to the Board of Public Improvements. I do not want the public to lose sight of this Ramapo water proposition for a single day until we have had a hearing. —COMPTROLLER COLER to the Journal.

NEW figure appeared in the Ramapo water affair yesterday. This was no less a person than Hugh McLaughlin, the Democratic leader of Kings County. To him is ascribed the inspiration that blocked the \$200,000,000 grab.

Politicians were busy discussing it. They said that Comptroller Coler was taken from his banking house in Wall Street, and exploited in politics by the veteran leader of Brooklyn. Ever since, at critical times, the advice of the old man has been given to his protege, and it was said that the warning from McLaughlin led Coler to so opportunely block the biggest steal attempted in this city in recent years.

It was also observed that there are water interests in Brooklyn Borough to be protected. There is, for instance, the Long Island Water Supply Company, in which many politicians in Kings County are concerned. The Ramapo deal would be a menace to this concern that could not be very well tolerated. Hence the timely blockade of the steal.

It was said yesterday that the projected municipal purchase of the Long Island Water Supply Company's rights for \$570,000 entered into the affair. This company has been a source of large annual profit to the owners, and they are loath to lose it through the city taking advantage of the purchase clause in its charter. Already there has been much controversy over the \$570,000 bond issue for that purpose.

According to reports in Wall Street, Brooklyn politicians believe the purchase of the Long Island Water Supply Company is a part of the Ramapo scheme to give the latter a clearer field and a firmer hold on the city. This and the fear of interference with other Brooklyn interests, should the Ramapo company win, were said to have led to heading off the \$200,000,000 grab just as the schemers expected it to slip through.

There is still much mystery about the Ramapo company. Even Comptroller Coler has been unable to find out much about it. Politicians and financiers of all stripes are involved deeply, but the sudden rousing of hostile public opinion has driven them to cover, and their tracks are hidden.

There was a stampede among the men whose names have been commonly reported to be connected with the scheme. Not a man save the figureheads whose names appeared in the necessary documents submitted, would admit any knowledge of it. Senator T. C. Platt gave angry denial. Congressman Lemuel E. Quigg put forth a proclamation declaring that the Republican party leaders were innocent. The law firm of Tracy, Boardman & Platt, political business promoters, was silent. Edward Lauterbach said that he was no longer counsel for the company.

Wherever information was sought complete ignorance was professed.

FIGHT AGAINST THE RAMAPO GRAB NOT WON.

COMPTROLLER COLER said yesterday that the fight against the approval of the Ramapo Company's contract is not won by any means. He doesn't want that impression to go forth.

It is evident that the Comptroller fears a counter move on the part of President Holahan, the other Ramapo Water Company partisan in the Board of Public Improvements, which, if not checked, may result in the approval of the contract after all.

There cannot be too much public discussion of this matter, said Mr. Coler. "I want the public to know all that can be learned of this affair."

Comptroller Coler called on President Holahan yesterday, and sought to dissuade him from his position to adopt the contract. The Comptroller found that Mr. Holahan's mind on the matter remained unchanged.

Thereupon Mr. Coler procured from the Aqueduct Commission a lot of maps, figures and reports, which he took to the Comptroller's office. With the staff of engineers which he has surrounded about him for the purpose of making his investigation, Comptroller Coler will go carefully over the reports of the Aqueduct Commission.

He has arranged to start the work with his staff on Saturday morning, and it will be continued all day Sunday, so as not to interfere with the multitude of detail of routine office work.

Mr. Coler said, however, that he has a big job on hand, taking it in connection with the regular duties of his office. It means work over and over again in order to complete the report.

Report Will Be Interesting. This report will be an interesting document. It will be a refutation in a measure of the statements made in Commissioner Dalton's report that there is urgent and immediate need of an additional water supply.

It will also touch on matters pertinent to the character and composition of the Ramapo Water Company, which is said to be not possessed of the great financial resources with which it is credited.

It was learned yesterday that Comptroller Coler is anxious to know just who the men are who are back of the Ramapo Water Company.

All that he has learned is that Silas B. Dutcher, a Republican politician, is at the head and front of the company.

Who the other officers are and who constitute the Board of Directors and stockholders is information also for which the Comptroller is anxious.

publish a statement regarding the situation and the reasons he had for taking the attitude he had in the matter.

City Can Build Plant. His report will urge the building by the city of its own water plant, and he will produce facts and figures to show that the city is in a position to begin the work within a year.

There is no debt limitation imposed in the matter of issuing water bonds, so that no financial objection, it is stated on authority, can stand in the way of the city beginning work on a new plant.

The Ramapo Water partisans in the Board were as determined yesterday as they were on Wednesday, yesterday addressed to President Grant, who has always fought the Ramapo water grab.

Hence Comptroller Coler knows that the fight is not won, and he is determined to fight it to the end.

He says he needs votes, and doubtless that is the reason Private Secretary Stevenson forwarded a cablegram to Europe yesterday addressed to President Grant, who has always fought the Ramapo water grab.

It is understood that President Grant will return in time to attend the meeting of the Board a week from Wednesday. Then will come the real fight.

HOLAHAN WILL GIVE
AWAY THE FRANCHISE.

PRESIDENT HOLAHAN has not receded one jot from the position he assumed at Wednesday's meeting of the Board when he made the determined effort to force the contract through.

None of the objections raised have changed the main question in his mind. He said yesterday:

"I don't believe it is possible for the city to own its own water plant. We must have water. That is all there is about it, and I believe that the best way to get the water is through the Ramapo Water Company."

"I make this statement after a full and free consideration of the matter. I've given the subject lots of thought. It has been an interesting question with me for a long time."

"If Comptroller Coler can prove to my satisfaction that the city can acquire the title to the water lands we need, and bring Catskill water into the borough without interfering with the development of our other great public improvements, then I will be with him in demanding municipal ownership."

The fact is that years must elapse before anything of that kind can be done. Water Supply Decreasing. "In the meantime what is happening? The water supply is decreasing by reason of the constantly increasing consumption. Can we afford that?"

Veteran Brooklyn Leader Advised the Course Pursued.

PLATT REPUDIATES THE DEAL.

Says He Knows Nothing of the Promoters or the Scheme.

THE FIGHT WILL BE BITTER.

President Holahan and Followers Determined to Stand Firm.

NO SCARCITY OF WATER.

Acting Mayor Guggenheimer Opposes Any Such Contract.

QUIGG SAYS HIS PARTY IS NOT IN THE DEAL.

The Republican organization has no interest whatsoever in and is not behind the Ramapo Water Company.

The Republican organization can have no interest in the company. Mr. Platt has no more to do with the concern or its efforts to procure a contract from the city than he has to do with the showmen which fall from the clouds or the stars which shine in the firmament.

Mr. Coler's attitude in the matter is unquestionably right, and he deserves the support that he needs to defeat this proposition. The Republican organization is with him heart and soul in his opposition. LEMUEL E. QUIGG.



Hugh McLaughlin.

The Brooklyn chieftain is credited with giving the warning that exposed and checked the \$200,000,000 Ramapo water grab.

PLATT DENIES ANY CONNECTION WITH THE RAMAPO WATER COMPANY.

THE stories that I am interested in this Ramapo water concern are all bosh—they are absurd. None of my interests are in the Ramapo company, not in the remotest way.

I can also say—knowing it to be a fact—that the law firm of Tracy, Boardman & Platt has nothing to do with the company. The only Republican whom I know to be in the company is Silas B. Dutcher. I'll have nothing more to say on the matter. THOMAS C. PLATT.

Board of Public Improvements at its meeting next Wednesday to oppose the Ramapo water grab.

This is not the meeting at which the vote on the contract will be taken. That occurs at the following Wednesday's meeting.

President Holahan said yesterday that he would be glad to hear those citizens when they appear on Wednesday.

Acting Mayor Guggenheimer said yesterday that there was no danger of a water scarcity, and that the report of such was not correct, inasmuch as it was misleading.

"Manhattan and Bronx," said Mr. Guggenheimer, "can get along very comfortably on its present supply until the Cornwell dam and the Jerome Park reservoir are completed. Then we will have enough water for fully ten years, by which time I expect the city will have completed a water system which will relieve for all time all uncertainty as to our water supply."

He does not know anything about the personnel of the Ramapo Water Company.

No Need for Haste. "I do know that there is no necessity for such undue haste as was exhibited in the matter."

"The city can manage to get along without the Ramapo Water Company and the consequent \$200,000,000 contract which it would entail."

Commissioner James P. Keating, who voted for the approval of the contract, would not talk at length on the situation yesterday.

"I think the contract ought to go through," he said. "I don't know why it shouldn't go through, and until I have evidence to the contrary I see no reason why I should change my mind."

Schieren Opposes It. Former Mayor Schieren, of Brooklyn, called on Acting Mayor Guggenheimer yesterday and voiced his opposition to the Ramapo water scheme.

He said that the matter should not be allowed to prevail beyond the next meeting, when the contract will again be voted on.

"I believe it to be the city's first duty," he said, "to utilize its present resources first, instead of going out of its way to give a private enterprise the right to enter the city."

"I certainly am in favor of the municipal ownership of water supply and utterly opposed to the city approving a \$200,000,000 contract with a private company."

On April 30, 1878, Silas B. Dutcher, who was then Appraiser of the Port, filed a petition in bankruptcy in the United States Court in Brooklyn. His liabilities were placed at \$21,086.90.

The only secured creditor was General Benjamin P. Tracy, who, until his nomination as Mayor of Greater New York, was assured, was president of the Ramapo Water Company.

Then he resigned and Dutcher became president.

Outings in the Mountains. By Mount Pleasant, Water Gap, Lake Hopatcong, three of many on LAURELHANA RAILROAD, and Bozetta. Fine hotels, fishing, sports.

There is no danger of a water scarcity. If the privilege is accorded, and they are not ruled out of order, a number of prominent citizens will appear before the

BIG TRAFFIC DEAL. "L" TO BROOKLYN PLANNED.

Manhattan and Rapid Transit Chiefs Discuss a Proposed Transfer System at the Bridge With Reduced Fare.

Experts Declare That It Would Benefit Both Companies, and Cite the Third Avenue Experiment as Proof.

Rate Not Settled, but Eight Cents Is Thought Likely. Rossiter Hopes to Increase His Borough's Population.

An exchange arrangement between the elevated railroad system of Manhattan and the elevated and surface railroads in Brooklyn is being negotiated, with a prospect of an early announcement.

The plan has worked in the last few months so greatly to the advantage of the Manhattan and Third Avenue systems that President Rossiter, of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit system, and General Manager Skitt, of the Manhattan, have a favorable opinion of the results if the exchange rate is extended to Brooklyn.

Messrs. Skitt and Rossiter had a long talk on the subject in the Manhattan Railway Company's offices yesterday. They went over the details minutely.

They have talked about it before, but nothing came of it. The hitch seemed to be in the difficulty of making a closer connection at the Bridge.

Obstacle Has Been Removed. That point has been uppermost in the renewed negotiations which have been going on for several days. Just how they have overcome that difficulty is not told by either of the railway men, but they allowed a hint to drop yesterday that it was no longer regarded as an obstacle.

That the deal would bring a great increase of traffic for both companies is the opinion of experts in street railway transportation. In the case of the vast majority of travellers across the Bridge two car fares is not to be thought of, if they ride from Brooklyn they must walk on this side, and vice versa. An exchange at eight cents or less would enable many to ride at both ends on at least one trip between home and business.

President Rossiter is actively pushing Roswell P. Flower's policy. This was based upon the maxim that where the population of a district increases at a steady rate street railway dividends will appear and will grow.

To Increase Brooklyn's Population. In desiring a traffic agreement with the elevated railroads, he calculates that the cheaper rate to Brooklyn will cause people to seek the cheaper rents across the Bridge who have been deterred hitherto by the added car fare, amounting to \$2.50 a month.

If he can cut that rate to one dollar, he will increase Brooklyn's population greatly.

Neither Mr. Rossiter nor Mr. Skitt would say yesterday what exchange rate was under consideration. It is generally supposed among street railway men that the 8 cent rate in force between the Third Avenue and Manhattan systems is the basis of negotiations.

An arrangement with Brooklyn may be extended to the Third Avenue system, after the Manhattan deal is completed.

SUICIDE, BEFORE DYING, PROTECTED HIS CANARY.

Put the Bird in the Kitchen Before He Flooded His Bedroom with Gas.

Resolved to spare his canary the death by gas which he had decreed for himself, George Schlatterhaus, of No. 416 East Eighty-ninth street, took the bird in its cage into the kitchen and put it near the open window.

Not satisfied with this precaution, he shut the kitchen door when he retired and stuffed up the cracks with rags. Then he went away for the night.

He was alone in the place, for his wife was out searching for work, so that she could not have been the cause of his less-than-consumptive, he had vowed that he would not live to be a burden to her. Having locked all the doors, he turned on the gas and went to bed.

The janitor of the house, who had smelled the gas, was the victim of sending for a plumber when Mr. Schlatterhaus returned home and found his husband dead. But in the kitchen his loved canary was singing bravely.

BISHOP WIGGER BORROWS \$150,000 IN ENGLAND.

It Will Be Used to Take Up Mortgages on Some of the Churches in His Diocese.

Bishop Wigger, of Newark, has just negotiated a loan of \$150,000 with an English syndicate, at 3½ per cent, to be used in taking up mortgages on Catholic churches throughout his diocese, on which 5 per cent interest is now being paid.

By this loan the Bishop saves 1½ per cent on their debts to many churches which are carrying heavy mortgages. It has also arranged with the syndicate for \$1,000,000 on the same terms if it is needed for the same purpose.

Bishop Wigger is at present in Madison and could not be seen yesterday regarding the loan. Rev. George Doane, O'Neill, chancellor of the diocese, admitted the negotiations had been practically completed.

6,000 FIREMEN IN LINE AT YONKERS.

The State Volunteer Firemen held their annual parade in Yonkers yesterday—the greatest in the history of the organization. There were nearly six thousand firemen in line, with fifty-six bands and seventeen drum corps.

The parade was led by Chief Mulcahy, of Yonkers. It was reviewed by the officials of Mount Vernon and Yonkers from the mammoth triumphal arch erected in Getty square, and was witnessed by about fifty thousand visitors, every factory and store being closed for the occasion.

Eighty special prizes were distributed, one of which was won by Mayor E. W. Fiske, of Mount Vernon, for being the oldest city official, with the longest fireman's record. The prize was a valuable bicycle.

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LEVI P. MORTON IS IN BAD HEALTH AT NEWPORT.

His Condition on Arriving Is Evidently That of a Man Far from Well.

Newport, Aug. 18.—Ex-Governor Levi P. Morton arrived here to-night and casual observation shows him to be far from well. He was assisted from the boat to a carriage and driven rapidly up the hill to the cottage section. His daughters, who have been here all Summer, were down to meet him.

Americans Killed in Mexican Expedition.

Chicago, Aug. 18.—A special to the Chicago Herald from Tampico, Mex., says: "By the explosion of the boiler of a locomotive on the Mexican Central Railroad seven men were killed and three others fatally injured. Among the killed are four Americans engineers, who were in the cab. Their names were Simon, Fitzgerald, Howe and O'Brien. Another American engineer, named Lockhart, was fatally injured."



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